

Program DiaMiGo Autumn Research Academy, 16-20 October, Cologne

Infrastructuring Migration | Migrating Infrastructures?

*Dialogue on Migration Governance
in the Euro-Mediterranean Region*

Autumn Research Academy

16-20 October 2023, University of Cologne



Organizational Committee

Department of Social and Cultural Anthropology, Department of Languages and Cultures of the Islamicate World, Division of International Affairs

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University of Cologne

Infrastructuring Migration | Migrating Infrastructures?

General description

Welcome to the Dialogue of Migration Governance (DiaMiGo) Autumn Research Academy "Infrastructuring Migration | Migrating Infrastructures?" in Cologne. This coming week, we will together explore from an interdisciplinary perspective current changes and debates related to the Mediterranean as a border region and, in this context, to migration and mobility in the wider Mediterranean region. Our overarching conceptual focus is on the infrastructuring of migration. This entails a praxeological perspective that sees (infra)structures not as fixed entities, but as mutually shaped and shifting in the process of migration itself. Migrants and refugees not only actively rely on and build their own infrastructures - infrastructuring migration - but also adapt, intervene, and change border regimes according to specific local situations and demands. Could one even speak of migrating infrastructures of control and migration? This approach implies a focus on localized settings and situated practices of bordering and calls for a broad understanding of migration that includes not only the movement of people, but also the movement of objects, ideas, and more-than-human (MTH) entities (such as viruses, toxins, plants, and animals). Such an understanding of the infrastructures of migration emphasizes the entanglement of human beings with material aspects involved in migration and its governance. This DiaMiGo Autumn Research Academy will explore this approach through three distinct yet intertwined areas of interest that co-structure contemporary practices and debates on migration and governance in the Mediterranean: 1) Human Mobility and the Autonomy of Migration; 2) Religion and Migration; and 3) More than Human Migration. We are looking forward to, together with students and expert speakers, exploring these themes and having fruitful discussions and exchange to gain a deeper understanding from multiple perspectives regarding this important theme of migration.

The DiaMiGo Research Academy is a collaboration between the University of Cologne and the American University in Cairo. It consists of two parts: this Autumn Research Academy, held in Cologne (October 16-20, 2023), focuses on an actor/object-centered perspective on migration infrastructures. The second part, to be held in Cairo (2024), will shift its focus to governance perspectives on migration infrastructures, such as recent changes in legal infrastructures and border regimes that implement policies and regulate different kinds of mobility in the Mediterranean. By consistently focusing on the three areas of interest throughout both events, the DiaMiGo Research Academy aims to provide a comprehensive discussion of current approaches and dynamics of migration.

Monday 16 October **Opening & General Framing**

Venue: Sky Fall at a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne
(3. Floor, Aachener Str. 217, 50931 Cologne)

09:30 **Walk-in and registration**

10:00 – 10:30 **Welcoming and opening remarks**
Karim Zafer

Introductory Lectures by the Organizers (Moderation: Karim Zafer)

10:30 – 11:00 ***Infrastructuring Migration | Migrating Infrastructures***
Martin Zillinger (University of Cologne)

11:00 – 11:30 ***Current Trends in Migration Research: Aspirations-Capabilities Framework***
Michaela Pelican (University of Cologne)

Coffee break

12:00 – 12:30 ***Religion and Migration***
Nina ter Laan (University of Cologne)

12:30 – 13:00 ***More-Than-Human Migration***
Christoph Lange (University of Cologne)

Lunch

14:00 – 14:30 ***Sea Watch: Search and Rescue, Criminalization and Human Rights Violations***
Dorothee Krämer & Giulia Messmer

Student Group Work

14:30 – 16:00 ***Introduction & First Inputs***
Facilitators: Elena Habersky (Migration), Emmanuele De Simone (Religion), Burak Sezer & Christoph Lange (MTH)

Tuesday 17 October
Human Mobility & Autonomy of Migration

Venue: International Guesthouse,
 (Kringsweg 6, 50931, Cologne)

Lectures (Moderation & Discussant: Ibrahim Abu Sena)

09:00-10:00 **Keynote I: A Perspective from the Global South on Concepts in Migration Studies**
 Ibrahim Awad (American University in Cairo)

Coffee Break

10:30-11:00: **Knowledge Politics and Migratory Justice: Design Principles for Critical and Actionable Migration Research**
 Jill Alpes (Ghent University)

11:00 – 11:30 **Assisted Migration or Human Trafficking? A Case Study from Eastern Sudan**
 Abdallah Ounour (Gadarif University Sudan)

11:30 – 12:00 **Refugee Entitlements in Egypt: Discrepancies between Law and Practice and Community Response**
 Elena Habersky (American University in Cairo)

12:00 – 12:30 **Discussion**

Lunch Break

Keynote II

Venue: Dozentenzimmer, Main Building (Albertus Magnusplatz 1, 50931, Cologne)

14:00 - 15:00 **Migration Infrastructure – Turkey's Immigration and Emigration policies (online)**
 Damla Aksel Bayraktar (Bahçeşehir University Istanbul)

Student Group Work

15:00 – 16:30 **Human Mobility & Autonomy of Migration**
 Facilitator: Elena Habersky,

Evening Program

19:30 – 21:30 **Concert with [Göksel Yilmaz Ensemble](#) & [Luis Gimenez Amoros](#)**
[Integrationshaus](#), [Demokratie Space](#) (Kalker Hauptstraße 170, 51103 Cologne)

Wednesday 18 October **Migration & Religion**

Venue: Dozentenzimmer: Main Building (Albertus Magnusplatz 1, 50931, Cologne)

Student Group Work

10:00 – 12:00 ***Crafting Connections between Migration and Religion***
Organization: Emmanuele de Simone & Nina ter Laan

Lunch Break

Lectures (Moderation: Nina ter Laan, Discussant: Martin Zillinger)

14:00 – 15:00 ***Keynote: Religious Place, Presence, and Sense-Making in African Migrant Trajectories within and beyond Morocco***
Johara Berriane (Universität der Bundeswehr, Munich)

15:00 – 15:30 ***Worshipping Along the Routes of Migration: Religion as Infrastructure***
Gerda Heck (American University in Cairo)

16:00 – 16:30 ***Racism and anti-Muslim Racism in the German border regime***
Sabine Damir Geilsdorf (University of Cologne)

16:30 – 17:00 ***Discussion***

Evening Program

18:00 – 20:30 ***Film screening & discussion with film maker Talib Shah Hossaini***
(Moderation: Karim Zafer, Translation: Yehya Rezazada)

Picknick in Moria (directed by Lina Lužyte, 81 minutes, 2022, Germany)
Cinema [Filmpalette](#) Köln (Lübecker Straße 15, 50668 Cologne)

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Thursday 19 October
More-Than-Human Migration

Venue: Sky Fall at a.r.t.e.s. Graduate School for the Humanities Cologne
(3. Floor, Aachener Str. 217, 50931 Cologne)

Lectures (Moderation: Christoph Lange, Discussant: Burak Sezer)

09:30 – 10:00 ***Aliens in the Mediterranean: On Fish Migrants, Questions of Belonging, and Emotional Attachments to the Sea***
[Karin Ahlberg](#) (University Stockholm)

10:00 – 10:30 ***Migration and circulation of cannabis hybrids in Morocco's Rif region***
[Khalid Mouna](#) (University of Moulay Ismail)

Coffee break

11:00 – 11:30 ***The Agency of the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in the Daily Lives of Ethiopian Migrant Workers in the UAE: A More-Than-Human Perspective***
[Saleh Seid](#) (University of Cologne)

11:30 – 12:00 ***“Items that Speak”: Tracing and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Migrants and Refugees***
[Amira Ahmed](#) (American University Cairo)

12:00 – 12:30 ***Discussion***

Lunch break

Student Group Work

14:00 – 15:30 ***Multispecies Storytelling and More-Than-Human Migration in the Mediterranean***
Organization: [Burak Sezer](#) & Christoph Lange

Friday 20 October
Concluding Roundtable

Venue: Dozentenzimmer: Main Building (Albertus Magnusplatz 1, 50931, Cologne)

10:00 – 12:00: ***Concluding roundtable for students' working groups***

Farewell

Abstracts

Ibrahim Awad: A Perspective from the Global South on Concepts in Migration Studies (Keynote)

The concepts discussed in the book suggest an area of migration studies narrower than it really is. The concepts are those guiding research and policy in immigration experiences, especially in Western Europe. The focus on immigration experiences alone leaves migration studies standing on one leg alone. Especially if an integrated global perspective is adopted, emigration experiences cannot be left out of migration studies. Significant concepts in studies of immigration may be irrelevant to those on emigration. Cohesion is an example. The same concepts may be expressive of different, at times opposite, issues in studies of emigration and immigration. This applies to labor migration, not discussed in the book. Dissimilar meanings of concepts are also substantial in the study of immigration in different regions. The history, population volume and ethnic structure, and the geographic delimitations of the concerned states give different, at times opposite, meanings to cohesion, diversity, integration and identity.

Jill Alpes: Knowledge Politics and Migratory Justice: Design Principles for Critical and Actionable Migration Research

This paper examines under what conditions knowledge is able (or not) to resist in the short and medium term the making and implementing of migration laws and policies by legislators and government officials that violate human right principles. In doing so, the article contributes to a broader conversation about the relationship between migration scholarship and migration politics. Many migration scholars would like to find ways to mobilize their knowledge to enhance migratory justice, yet border violence is only increasing. On the one hand, policy makers do not act on scholarly recommendations that are highly critical, but not actionable in the short and medium-term. On the other hand, when scholarly recommendations are actionable, legal and policy changes do not necessarily result in meaningful improvements for refugees' and other migrants' access to rights and dignity. As a result, there is a dichotomy between applied research that is not critical and critical research that is not actionable. Against this backdrop, this article asks under what conditions knowledge claims can do political or legal work in human rights advocacy and litigation? The paper is based on auto-biographical explorations of what it means for an anthropologist to produce knowledge on migration from within law faculties and as policy officer and research consultant for human and refugee rights organizations. The article theorizes the selective conversion of migration knowledge into actionable justice claims and analyzes these conversion processes empirically for the case of advocacy and litigation for the protection of the non-refoulement principle. Based on this material, the article develops a set of design principles for scholarship to resist laws and policies that violate human rights principles. I argue that migration scholars who seek justice should not produce more evidence, but rather engage in strategic thinking across sectoral boundaries on how to convert knowledge into legal and/or political currency. With this argument, the article pleads for the importance of academics to mobilize their epistemic resources to make justice claims able to intervene in the decay of truth.

Abdallah Ounour: Assisted Migration or Human Trafficking? A Case Study from Eastern Sudan

The study site was Sudanese localities sharing international borders with Eritrea, Ethiopia, KSA, and Egypt, where the investigation focused on perception about migration at four levels i.e., actors who engaged in "Assisted Migration or human trafficking", victims of trafficking, and refugees, local border communities, and governmental authorities. The study relied on ethnographic field work in the Kassala, Gedaref, and the Red Sea states and depended on qualitative research tools for collecting data. The tools were: in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, observations. The philosophy of the study was basically to understand the exact activity (or phenomenon) that is taking place in Eastern Sudan to know the exact term that describes it. But mainly, the labels smuggling and trafficking have been coined by state institutions which fight migration, and those involved in migration do not necessarily share the meanings which are conveyed by these terms.

The study has shown that there are two types of migration, the first is the historically known migration of border tribes, and the other is the contemporary migration. The study indicated clearly that migrants

were youths, who were looking forward to entering Western Europe as a final destination. The study also revealed there were two forms of narrative about the phenomena: the formal narrative which says there are different types of human trafficking taking place in Eastern Sudan, which was classified according to the size and activity of the trafficking process. Kassala represented the top State followed by Gadarif and the Red Sea. Moreover, the study showed that most migrants in Eastern Sudan were from Eritrea, Somalia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Syria, South Sudan, and other Western African countries. Regarding the second form of narrative which is the informal narrative The study showed that there are definition concepts for migrants used by smugglers and human traffickers (and vice versa) in the three states. The study also showed that the concept of bribery takes a significant position in the relationship between smuggling networks and official authorities, its name varies from region to region, and it is an amount that smugglers pay to official authorities to override the rules.

Elena Habersky: Refugee Entitlements in Egypt: Discrepancies between Law and Practice

Many legal entitlements are owed to refugees and asylum seekers via international, regional, and bilateral instruments. Unlike most of its neighbors, Egypt is signatory to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol. This means Egypt should provide access to such rights as education, healthcare, employment, and documentation, to name but a few. Three things often happen, though: the law for these rights doesn't exist at all in the national framework; it exists but isn't practiced; or it is fully realized. This presentation will look mainly at the first two instances whereby many refugees end up supporting themselves and their communities in unique ways when they are unable to access their rights. For example, many communities start their own community schools, while others set up refugee-led organizations (RLOs) which offer services like psychosocial, economic, and legal support. This talk will then touch upon how these organic community structures end up changing the landscape of both the refugee communities and the urban space(s) they occupy, namely, Cairo.

Luis Gimenez Amoros: The Unknown Spanish Levant: Musical Creativity and Circulation in the Mediterranean, Past and Present

This musical presentation explores how musical creativity, historical music circulation, and narratives in the Spanish Levant connect pre-colonial, colonial, and post-colonial eras. Amoros performs musical examples from the album series "The Unknown Spanish Levant" (2021-2023) to support discussions about artistic boundaries in the Mediterranean and beyond.

The Göksel Yılmaz Ensemble offers a concert of Turkish, Arabic, and Kurdish music with influences from jazz, blues, and classical elements. Their contemporary take on traditional folk music invites listeners on a musical journey from longing to rebellion and from sorrow to joy. The ensemble's repertoire includes songs from Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, and Kurdistan, as well as compositions by Göksel Yılmaz, the founder and lead artist. Göksel comes from a Turkish-Arab immigrant family in the Netherlands. Since its formation in 2006, the ensemble has released two albums and performed at various international venues and festivals. Their second album, "Kan Zaman" (There was a time) is entirely in Arabic and pays homage to Göksel's family's history of migration and cultural exchange through cassettes between relatives in Turkey and the Netherlands.

Johara Berriane: Religious Place, Presence, and Sense-Making in African Migrant Trajectories within and beyond Morocco

West and Central African migration towards Morocco has been mainly analysed as the effect of the regions' role as Europe's southern 'frontier zone' and zone of 'transit' or 'waiting' for migrants heading Europe. While looking at the interrelations of migration and religion, this paper will challenge this Eurocentric perspective and re-centre the analysis on the South-South dynamics of African migration to Morocco. On the one hand, the paper will show how religious sites and the spaces connected with them shape multidirectional migration practices and life experiences in Morocco and beyond. On the other hand, it will describe how West and Central African mobile people shape and transform Morocco's religious sites and landscapes. In other words, it will question the intersections of religious and migration infrastructures and describe the religious place-, presence- and sense-making in African migrant trajectories to and beyond Morocco. The talk will be based on ethnographic research conducted in a Muslim Tidjani shrine in Fès and in charismatic house churches in Rabat and Casablanca.

Gerda Heck: Worshiping Along the Routes of Migration: Religion as Infrastructure

In the last two decades, we have seen an increasing interest in migration studies of diverse religious movements in global cities. Thereby, religion and faith are understood not only as agglomerations of religious practices and structures but as frames in which religion and migration are interwoven. Due to increasing migratory movements from Congo since the 1990s, Congolese Christian revival church communities have arisen in many metropolises globally. At the same time, access to global mobility has become one of the most obvious stratifying parameters in today's global society. Due to more and more restrictive Global North migration policies, Congolese people have started to alter their migration strategies and follow new routes, either undertaking circuitous journeys that involve transiting several countries or targeting new destinations. In my presentation, I will show how Congolese Christian revival parishes have become infrastructural actors that hold together mobile communities between different countries and continents. Drawing on AbdouMaliq Simone's notion of "people as infrastructure," religious gatherings or the sending and posting of prayers via mobile phones and social media can be understood as creating an infrastructure, which serves the needs of migrants in various ways. Consequently, these sites of religious practice(s) structure where people move and reside along their migratory routes. Based on findings from a multi-sited ethnography I have carried out since 2010, I will touch upon the complex correlations between religion, migration, and personal desires and ambitions.

Karin Ahlberg: Aliens in the Mediterranean: On Fish Migrants, Questions of Belonging and Emotional Attachments to the Sea

In 1869, the opening of the Suez Canal shortened the route between Europe and India, accelerated human and goods mobility and facilitated colonization of Africa. The canal also unmade the biogeographic barriers that isolated the biotas of the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean. As a result of successive dredging to allow for larger vessels, the Suez Canal constitutes a free-flowing water passageway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. Today, more than 600 alien species can be found in the Mediterranean Sea. The phenomenon is called Lessepsian migration. Only a handful of species have moved the other way. My current research explores the unruly environmental afterlife of the Suez Canal on land and under the surface through ethnographic work with humans and fishes in the Eastern Mediterranean Basin. Much nature conversation work is conducted in the name of science, with the aim of restoring and protecting ecosystems and ecologies. In this session, I want to shift the focus to questions of belonging and emotional attachment to landscapes in an era of increased non-human species mobility. In the last five years, southern Crete has seen a significant proliferation of alien species, particularly lionfish, pufferfish, rabbitfish and sea urchins. "They don't belong here," is a common phrase in Crete where I am currently conducting research. "They even look like aliens," a Greek interlocutor recently told me. "They have long spikes; armored fins and they can inflate themselves." A solution for controlling alien populations in Greece is invasivorism, i.e., the eating invasive species. Awareness campaigns encourage people to "eat responsibly" by putting aliens on the menu. But why do people, many of whom habitually consume local fish and go to the beach even when this infringes on aquatic life, get upset by fish migrants and their impact on the sea? Why do we tend to get territorial about landscapes that we have dwelled in, and what are the landscapes are we trying to protect?

Saleh Seid: The Agency of the GERD (Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam) in the Daily Lives of Ethiopian Migrant Workers in the UAE: A More-Than-Human Perspective

This contribution delves into the intricate interplay between more-than-human mobilities (MTH) and human migration frameworks, spotlighting the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) and its profound impact on Ethiopian migrant workers living and working in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Employing a netnographic and ethnographic approach, the contribution explores how the GERD functions as a more-than-human entity that exerts agency in the daily lives of these migrants. Central to the analysis is symbiotic construction, where the dam's construction simultaneously leads to the construction of a new national identity among Ethiopian migrant workers. This symbiotic relationship underscores the mutually reinforcing dynamics between the GERD as a monumental infrastructure project and the emergence of a shared sense of purpose, pride, and belonging among Ethiopian migrant workers in the UAE. Significantly, digital platforms have emerged as a powerful facilitator of this symbiotic relationship, enabling Ethiopian migrant workers to interact with the GERD actively. Through these digital platforms, GERD manifests itself in their daily lives as they engage in discussions,

express their support, and contribute financially to the dam's construction. I illuminate how digital platforms connect the physical and virtual realms, creating spaces where both human and non-human entities, such as the GERD, coalesce and influence one another. Moreover, the contribution examines the role of migration diplomacy by the Ethiopian government in managing the GERD project and mobilizing its diaspora. The government's diplomatic efforts, combined with the reach of digital platforms and the region's complex resource politics, amplify the GERD's agency in the symbiotic construction. These diplomatic endeavors facilitate active engagement in discussions, advocacy, and the promotion of Ethiopia's interests related to the GERD. Through these explorations, I attempted to shed light on the multifaceted dimensions of MTH and human migration frameworks, emphasizing their convergence and the transformative role of the GERD, facilitated by digital platforms and migration diplomacy, in shaping the experiences and identities of Ethiopian migrant workers in the UAE.

Khalid Mouna: Migration and Circulation of Cannabis Hybrids in Morocco's Rif Region

This paper analyzes the migration path of young rural people from cannabis-producing areas. For the young people in our study, migration is a mean of integrating transnational networks and thus starting a career as a *beznass* (cannabis trader). This "initiatory" path enables these young people to return to the bled with new ideas and greater resources, and to play an active role in the local economy - which for them remains focused on cannabis production. These young people will play an important role in the circulation of cannabis hybridization seeds, connecting the cannabis production area with a globalized hybrid market.

Amira Ahmed: "Items that Speak": Tracing and Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Migrants and Refugees

People forced to move within and between Africa and Europe encounter multiple challenges during the journey, but they also navigate and resist marginalization and border violence through spaces and practices of cultural heritage. However, the cultural heritage of migrants is precarious; the 'irregular' status of migrants means that it is generally confined to 'hidden transcripts' (Scott 1990) or excluded from the archives of the state. This paper attempts to uncover the traces of migration memories, places and institutions and to recognize them as contributions to migration infrastructure and to cultural heritage at large; which value has been distracted by public and prevailing discourses, encapsulating migrants and refugees as increasingly a national security threat, a threat to cultural traditions and values, and as a domestic issue of national security. The paper aims specifically to find ways to understanding whether and how the dynamics of cultural heritage of solidarity and struggle are traced in the migration context, and to explore ways such heritage can be told and re-told and can serve as a political resource for history re-making and for justice-claims. It further attempts to examine how the mobility and materiality of migrants' cultural practices and the mobile cultural objects (MTH) form specific regimes of mobility which is both dependent and independent in the movement of migrant human subjects. The findings in this paper are based on an initial stage of fieldwork conducted in Cairo with Sudanese, Ethiopian, Eritrean, and Somali migrant communities over the past year. The fieldwork is equally informed by the multi-method and multi-sited research conducted between Italy, Tunisia, and the UK for the research project, "Traces of Mobility, Violence, and Solidarity: Reconceptualizing Cultural Heritage through the Lens of Migration". Funded by Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, the project is hosted at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences at AUC, in collaboration with the University of Milan, University of Jendouba, University of London-Goldsmith and AUC.

Note on Contributors

Karin Ahlberg is a social anthropologist, who received her PhD from SOAS, University of London in 2017. Before joining the department, she held a Postdoctoral Fellowship with the Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago. Her PhD thesis examines entanglements between tourism, statecraft and national image curation in the context of contemporary Egypt. For the thesis, she conducted twenty months of fieldwork in Cairo in the aftermath of the 2011 Revolution. Ahlberg's new research project explores the afterlife of the Suez Canal and Lessepsian migration from a more-than-human perspective (karin.ahlberg@socant.su.se)

Amira Ahmed is both a scholar and practitioner in the area of diaspora engagement, migration, refugees & human trafficking. Dr. Ahmed is an assistant professor currently based at the American University in Cairo where she teaches both graduate and undergraduate courses in the fields of sociology, anthropology, community development and migration; she also leads on the research project: "*Traces of mobility, violence and solidarity. Reconceptualizing cultural heritage through the lens of migration*". Amira also worked with leading humanitarian/development organizations such as UN-IOM in Jordan and Egypt and IFRC in Switzerland. Recent publication: co-author, chapter book "Skills for Science Systems in Africa: The Case of Brain Drain" (eds.) 2021 (amiraa@aucegypt.edu).

Jill Alpes is a senior researcher within the Human Rights Centre at Ghent University. Her research focuses on the work of international human rights lawyers in brokering evidence on pushbacks from European borders. Jill holds a Ph.D. in political anthropology from the University of Amsterdam, an MA in development studies from Sciences Po Paris and a BA in international history and politics from the University of Sheffield. Since the completion of her Ph.D., Jill has worked at research institutes in the Netherlands, France, Denmark and Germany, as well as for and in collaboration with foundations and migrants and refugee rights organizations, such as Amnesty, Oxfam, DRC and Picum. Her book "Abroad at any cost: Brokering High-risk migration and illegality in West Africa" (Routledge) challenges narratives of smuggling and trafficking and considers the governance of migration from the perspective of individuals and families in a country of departure in West Africa (Cameroon). Jill's interest in access barriers to asylum and post-return risks have brought her to carry out field research in Europe (France, Netherlands, Greece, Italy), rural and urban Africa (Cameroon, DRC, Mali, Nigeria, Niger) and the Middle East (Turkey, Lebanon). Her fields of expertise are readmissions, border procedures, post-deportation risks, access to legal assistance, smuggling and trafficking. Jill Alpes is also an (advisory) board member of the Post-Return Monitoring network and of the UN Working Group on Returns of the UN Migration Network (m.j.alpes@gmail.com).

Ibrahim Awad is currently a professor of practice of global affairs and director, of the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies, School of Global Affairs and Public Policy, at The American University in Cairo (AUC). He holds a BA degree in political science from Cairo University and a PhD degree in political science from the Graduate Institute of International Studies, University of Geneva, Switzerland. He has worked for the League of Arab States, the United Nations and the International Labour Organization (ILO), holding positions of Secretary of the Commission, UN-ESCWA, director, of ILO Sub-regional Office for North Africa and director, the ILO International Migration Programme. Awad currently is chair of the Labor Migration Working Group of the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD), hosted by the World Bank, chair of the Steering Committee of the Euro-Mediterranean Research Network on International Migration (EuroMedMig), member of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Working Group on Reimagining Global Economic Governance, member of the Advisory Board of the Center on Forced Displacement, Boston University, member of the Advisory Board, Gulf Labour Markets, Migration and Population (GLMM) Programme, and Senior Fellow at the Migration Policy Centre (MPC) of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva. He also serves on the editorial boards of several academic journals (iawad@aucegypt.edu).

Johara Berriane is Professor of Flight, Migration and Social Mobility at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich. Her dissertation examined trans-Saharan connections and mobilities in the context of the Sufi Order of Tidjâniyya. She was subsequently a visiting fellow at the International Migration Institute in Oxford and the Zentrum Moderner Orient in Berlin, as well as a researcher at the Chaire d'études africaines comparées at the Ecole d'économie et de gouvernance in Rabat. Later, she researched and taught in Dakar as part of the transnational research group "The Bureaucratization of African Societies". Most recently, she was a researcher and co-director of the research program "Mobility, Migration and Spatial Reorganizations" at the Marc Bloch Center in Berlin and taught at the Humboldt University in Berlin. Her field research spans Morocco, Mali, Senegal, and Côte d'Ivoire (johara.berriane@unibw.de).

Sabine Damir-Geilsdorf is Professor of Middle Eastern Studies and Director of the Institute for Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies at the University of Cologne. She received her Ph.D. in Islamic Studies with a dissertation on the Egyptian Islamist Sayyid Qutb (1906-1966) and her Habilitation with a study on Palestinian narratives of the 1948 Arab Israeli War. She has conducted field research in several Middle Eastern countries and has published extensively on the transformation of religious concepts, Islamism, (forced) migration in the Middle East, Islam in Germany, and popular culture in Middle Eastern societies (s.geilsdorf@uni-koeln.de).

Luis Gimenez Amoros has conducted research and lectured in ethnomusicology on four continents and is an international performer and the composer of sixteen solo albums. His academic research has focused on music and refugees in the Sahara Desert (for his doctoral dissertation), sound repatriation and revitalization of historical recordings from African sound archives, and the historical circulation of Iberian music within an Afro-Asian context and in Latin America. His publications include the monograph 'Tracing the Mbira Sound Archive in Zimbabwe' (Routledge, 2018) and the awarded tetralogy album 'The Unknown Spanish Levant' (recorded in Egypt, Brazil, Mexico, Malaysia, South Africa and Spain). [<https://luisgimenezamoros.com/>]

Elena Habersky is the current CMRS Project Coordinator of the "Dialogue on Migration Governance" Project, a joint venture between the American University in Cairo's (AUC) Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) and the University of Cologne, as well as a Consultant for Tafawol, a Sudanese Refugee-Led Organization in Cairo. She was previously the Project Leader of the Egyptian Migration Hub (EHUB) and the Refugee Entitlements in Egypt Project, both undertaken at CMRS. She has a decade of experience working on migration issues in the MENA region, having previously worked in Jordan, and has also conducted research with refugees in Uganda. She has an MA in Migration and Refugee Studies from CMRS at AUC and a BS in International Studies from the University of Scranton. She is on Twitter @bur_ski. (emhabersky@aucegypt.edu).

Gerda Heck is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology, Egyptology and Anthropology and the Center for Migration and Refugee Studies (CMRS) at the American University in Cairo. Her academic work and research focus on migration and border regimes, urban studies, migration governance and European externalization policies, migrant networks, organizations and infrastructures, gender and migration, religion, and new concepts of citizenship. She is the Principal Investigator for the DAAD exchange project Dialogue on Migration Governance in the Euro-Mediterranean Region (DiaMiGo) at the American University in Cairo. She is a member of Kritnet: Network for Critical Migration and Border Regime Research (gerda.heck@aucegypt.edu).

Christoph Lange Christoph Lange is the Academic Program Manager of [MESH](#) and coordinator of the [Mediterranean Liminalities](#) research lab at the UoC. He studied Social Anthropology and Middle East Studies. His research interests lie regionally in the Southern Mediterranean & Arab Middle East and theoretically he is interested in more-than-human anthropology, science and technology studies (STS), and the global history of sociotechnical entanglements. After finishing his dissertation on the [Making and Remaking of the Arabian Horse](#), he is now developing a postdoctoral project on [socio-ecological interventions in the Mediterranean](#) from a Critical Zone's perspective (c.lange@uni-koeln.de).

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